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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB - VLTOMSETH:MFG
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O 251707Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USSAG/7TH AF NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
DOD

S E C R E T STATE 066977

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, MARR, TH, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA

REF: A. BANGKOK 4798 (NOTAL) B. BANGKOK 4778 (NOTAL)
M CINCPAC 222123Z MAR 75 (NOTAL); D. PHNOM PENH 5179

1. WITHOUT ADDING TO THE PROBLEMS THE THAI HAVE CREATED,
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YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THE NEW THAI

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GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CAMBODIA IN GENERAL AND OUR USE OF THAI FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THE GKR IN PARTICULAR. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE THE SUPPORT FLIGHTS WITHOUT CHECKING WITH KHUKRIT, PRAMAN, OR CHATCHAI, WHO MIGHT BE SO CONSTRAINED BY EARLIER PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS TO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ASK THAT THEY BE STOPPED IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GENUINE DESIRES. IF, HOWEVER, THE THAI ASK YOU TO STOP THEM, YOU SHOULD TAKE THE LINE YOU PROPOSE IN REF A STATING THAT SUCH A REQUEST HAS SUCH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP THAT IT MUST BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON.

2. AS FOR THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTION THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN PHNOM PENH OR YOU BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD CAMBODIA (PARA 4 REF B),

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR FROM OUR ACTIONS THAT WE INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SECURE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM CONGRESS TO ENABLE THE GKR TO RESIST THE CURRENT KHMER COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. IF ASEAN COUNTRIES AND JAPAN HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE USG PLANS TO DO IF THESE FUNDS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING, THEY SHOULD DIRECT THEIR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. AT THIS POINT, WE DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANNING, SO LONG AS WE ARE MAINTAINING OUR POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE GKR AND SEEKING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.

3. ON A RELATED MATTER, REF C (SENT TO COMUSMACTHAI AS AN INFO ADDRESSEE) EXPRESSES CINCPAC'S CONCERN ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THAI FACILITIES FOR SUPPORT OF EAGLE PULL. WE HAVE NO DOCUMENTARY RECORD OF CONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING OF ANY PRIOR AGREEMENTS WHICH EXIST. IN ADDITION, WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS ON THE POINTS RAISED BY CINCPAC AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE THAI WILL PERMIT THE USE OF THAI FACILITIES BY US FORCES COMMITTED TO EAGLE PULL. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING IF WE HAVE EVER TALKED TO THE THAI ABOUT SAFE-HAVENING PEOPLE COMING OUT OF CAMBODIA. PERSONNEL WOULD INCLUDE US, CAMBODIAN,

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AND SOME THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. IN SUMMARY, WE NEED YOUR ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI PROVIDE US WITH SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE EAGLE PULL SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY, WHETHER WE NEED TO SEEK REAFFIRMATION OF THAT AUTHORITY FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT, OR WHETHER WE SHOULD PLAN ON USING THAI FACILITIES WITHOUT FURTHER OBTAINING THE VIEWS OF THE THAI.

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4. FINALLY, REF D RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PEOPLE MAY BEGIN LEAVING PHNOM PENH VIA USAF C-130 BACKHAUL IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. PERSONNEL COULD INCLUDE NON-USG EMPLOYEES IF DESIGNATED BY EMBASSY PHNOM PENH. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THESE PEOPLE COULD BE MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESSED IN THAILAND. KISSINGER

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